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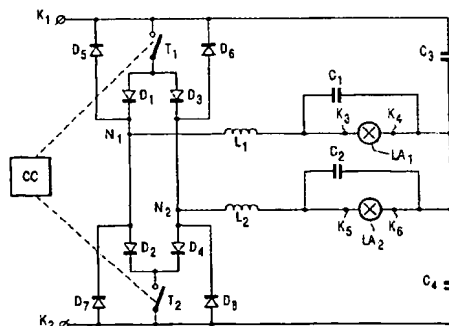
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(54) Title: **CIRCUIT ARRANGEMENT FOR OPERATING DISCHARGE LAMPS**



(57) Abstract: A DC-AC converter in a half bridge configuration is used for operation with high pressure discharge lamps as well as low pressure discharge lamps. The converter consists in two switches (T1-T2) serially connected through a first series of diodes (D1, D2) and a second series of diodes (D3, D4) to which at their middle points (N1, N2) a first and a second lamp loads (L1, L2, LA1, LA2) are connected. Furthermore, the second terminals of the lamp loads are connected to the middle point of a series of capacitors (C3, C4) which are also connected to the terminals (K1, K2) of the supply voltage source. The converter includes also four diodes (D5, D6, D7, D8) which shunt the switches (T1, T2) and their respective series of diodes (D1, D2, D3, D4). The switches (T1, T2) are controlled by a controller (CC) which renders alternatively conductive at low frequency the two switches (T1, T2). In the first operating state, the first switch (T1) is rendered conductive and non-conductive at a high-frequency while the second switch (T2) is maintained in a non-conductive state, in the second operating state the second switch (T2) is rendered conductive and non-conductive at high-frequency while the first switch (T1) is maintained in a non-conductive state. The series of two capacitors (C3, C4) can be replaced by a series of two switches (T3, T4) in order to obtain a full bridge configuration of the converter. The particular configuration of the network and its operating mode allow to drive the lamp loads in such a way that the difference in power consumed by the lamps is comparatively small.

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